

Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Currently Amended)* A method of operating a multicast transmission system comprising a first station ~~(100)~~ and a plurality of second stations ~~(200)~~, the method comprising

- at the first station ~~(100)~~, transmitting data;
- at each of the second stations ~~(200)~~:
 - receiving the data;
 - determining whether the received data is fully decodable;
 - if the data is not fully decodable, transmitting a reply signal; and
- at the first station ~~(100)~~:
 - receiving the reply signal from at least one of the second stations ~~(200)~~; and
 - in response to receiving the reply signal, retransmitting at least a portion of the data;

further comprising

- the reply signal being devoid of an indication of the identity of the transmitting second station ~~(200)~~;
- at the first station ~~(100)~~:
 - selecting, for retransmitting the data, between a dedicated mode in which the data is addressed to one of the second stations ~~(200)~~ and a broadcast mode in which the data is broadcast to a plurality of the second stations ~~(200)~~;
 - in response to selecting the dedicated mode and prior to the retransmission, transmitting a further signal;
 - at each of the second stations ~~(200)~~ which transmitted the reply signal, in response to receiving the further signal, transmitting an indication of its identity; and
- at the first station ~~(100)~~, receiving the indication of identity and employing the indication of identity to address the retransmission to one of the second stations ~~(200)~~.

2. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising estimating the number of second stations (200) transmitting the reply signal and selecting the mode dependent on the estimate.

3. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the reply signal is transmitted in an access slot indicative of a portion of data to be retransmitted.

4. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~claim 1, 2 or 3~~ claim 1, wherein the reply signal comprises a signature indicative of a portion of data to be retransmitted.

5. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the further signal comprises a positive acknowledgement.

6. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the transmitted indication of identity comprises a message transmitted on a random access channel having an access service class (ASC) different from the ASC of the reply signal.

7. *(Currently Amended)* A communication station (100) for use in a multicast transmission system comprising a plurality of second stations (200), the communication station (100) comprising:
means (140) for transmitting data;
means (160) for receiving a reply signal from at least one of the second stations, and
means (120) responsive to receiving the reply signal for retransmitting at least a portion of the data;
further comprising
means (180) for selecting, for retransmitting the data, between a dedicated mode in which the data is addressed to one of the second stations (200) and a broadcast mode in which the data is broadcast to a plurality of the second stations (200);

means ~~(190)~~ responsive to selecting the dedicated mode for transmitting a further signal;

means ~~(160)~~ for receiving an indication of identity transmitted by a second station ~~(100)~~; and

means ~~(130)~~ for employing the indication of identity to address the retransmission to one of the second stations ~~(200)~~.

8. *(Currently Amended)* A communication station ~~(100)~~ as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means ~~(180)~~ for selecting the mode is adapted to estimate the number of second stations ~~(200)~~ transmitting the reply signal and to select the mode dependent on the estimate.

9. *(Currently Amended)* A communication station ~~(200)~~ for use in a multicast transmission system, the communication station ~~(200)~~ comprising:
means ~~(260)~~ for receiving data;
means ~~(270)~~ for determining whether the received data is fully decodable; and
means ~~(220)~~ responsive to the data not being fully decodable for transmitting a reply signal devoid of an indication of identity of the communication station ~~(200)~~; and
means ~~(220)~~ responsive to receiving a further signal for transmitting an indication of identity of the communication station ~~(200)~~;
means ~~(260)~~ for receiving a retransmission of at least a portion of the data whether addressed to the communication station ~~(200)~~ or whether broadcast.

10. *(Currently Amended)* A communication station ~~(200)~~ as claimed in claim 9, wherein the means ~~(220)~~ for transmitting the reply signal is adapted to indicate a portion of the data for which retransmission is requested by selection from a plurality of at least one of a time slot and a signature.

11. *(Currently Amended)* A multicast transmission system comprising a first station ~~(100)~~ in accordance with ~~claim 7 or 8~~ claim 7 and a plurality of second stations ~~(200)~~ in accordance with ~~claim 9 or 10~~.